

COUNTRY DATA: Australia

: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Aboriginal settlers arrived on the continent from Southeast Asia about 40,000 years before the first Europeans began exploration in the 17th century. No formal territorial claims were made until 1770, when Capt. James COOK took possession in the name of Great Britain. Six colonies were created in the late 18th and 19th centuries; they federated and became the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901. The new country took advantage of its natural resources to rapidly develop agricultural and manufacturing industries and to make a major contribution to the British effort in World Wars I and II. In recent decades, Australia has transformed itself into an internationally competitive, advanced market economy. It boasted one of the OECD's fastest growing economies during the 1990s, a performance due in large part to economic reforms adopted in the 1980s. Long-term concerns include climate-change issues such as the depletion of the ozone layer and more frequent droughts, and management and conservation of coastal areas, especially the Great Barrier Reef.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Oceania, continent between the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean
Area	total: 7,741,220 sq km country comparison to the world: 6 land: 7,682,300 sq km water: 58,920 sq km note: includes Lord Howe Island and Macquarie Island
Climate	generally arid to semiarid; temperate in south and east; tropical in north
Natural Resources	bauxite, coal, iron ore, copper, tin, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten, rare earth elements, mineral sands, lead, zinc, diamonds, natural gas, petroleum note: Australia is the world's largest net exporter of coal accounting for 29% of global coal exports
Total Renewable Water Resources	398 cu km (1995)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 24.06 cu km/yr (15%/10%/75%) per capita: 1,193 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	cyclones along the coast; severe droughts; forest fires volcanism: volcanic activity occurs on the Heard and McDonald Islands
Environmental	soil erosion from overgrazing, industrial development, urbanization, and poor farming

Issues	practices; soil salinity rising due to the use of poor quality water; desertification; clearing for agricultural purposes threatens the natural habitat of many unique animal and plant species; the Great Barrier Reef off the northeast coast, the largest coral reef in the world, is threatened by increased shipping and its popularity as a tourist site; limited natural fresh water resources
PEOPLE	
Population	21,515,754 (July 2010 est.) country comparison to the world: 54
Ethnic Groups	white 92%, Asian 7%, aboriginal and other 1%
Religions	Catholic 25.8%, Anglican 18.7%, Uniting Church 5.7%, Presbyterian and Reformed 3%, Eastern Orthodox 2.7%, other Christian 7.9%, Buddhist 2.1%, Muslim 1.7%, other 2.4%, unspecified 11.3%, none 18.7% (2006 Census)
Languages	English 78.5%, Chinese 2.5%, Italian 1.6%, Greek 1.3%, Arabic 1.2%, Vietnamese 1%, other 8.2%, unspecified 5.7% (2006 Census)
Literacy Rate	English 78.5%, Chinese 2.5%, Italian 1.6%, Greek 1.3%, Arabic 1.2%, Vietnamese 1%, other 8.2%, unspecified 5.7% (2006 Census)
Major Infectious Diseases	
GOVERNMENT	
Type	federal parliamentary democracy and a Commonwealth realm
Independence	1 January 1901 (from the federation of UK colonies)
Constitution	9 July 1900; effective on 1 January 1901
Legal System	based on English common law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts International Criminal Court jurisdiction with conditions
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	wheat, barley, sugarcane, fruits; cattle, sheep, poultry
Industries	mining, industrial and transportation equipment, food processing, chemicals, steel
Import commodities	machinery and transport equipment, computers and office machines, telecommunication equipment and parts; crude oil and petroleum products
Import Partners	China 17.94%, US 11.26%, Japan 8.36%, Thailand 5.81%, Singapore 5.54%, Germany 5.3% (2009)
Export	coal, iron ore, gold, meat, wool, alumina, wheat, machinery and transport equipment

Commodities	
Export Partners	China 21.81%, Japan 19.19%, South Korea 7.88%, India 7.51%, US 4.95%, UK 4.37%, NZ 4.1% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$41,300 (2010 est.) country comparison to the world: 18 \$40,500 (2009 est.) \$40,500 (2008 est.) note: data are in 2010 US dollars
Population below poverty line	N/A

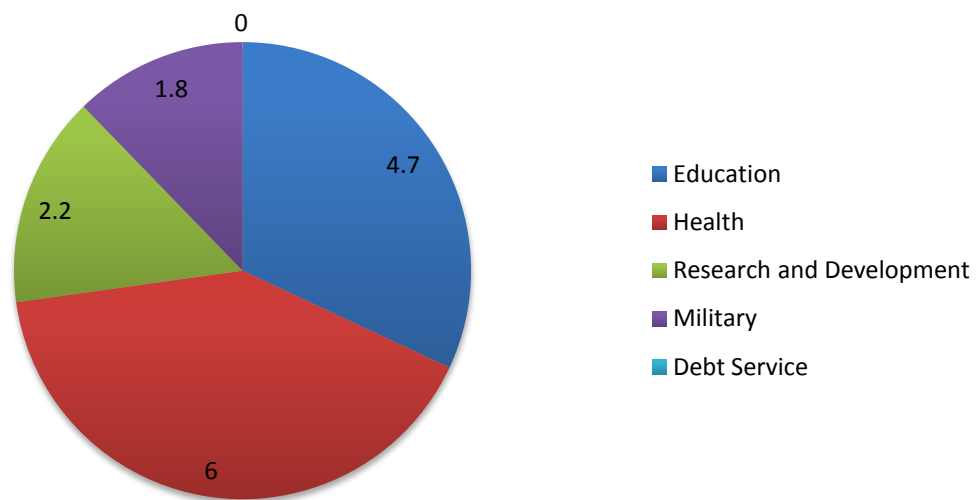
*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

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General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	81.9
Average number of years in School (in years)	12.0
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	38,692
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	29.7
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	95.1
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	97.2
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	69.9
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	83.0
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	99
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	..
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	8
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	23

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	94
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	6
Population without Access to Water (%)	0
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	0
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	458
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	0.0
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	..
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	89.1
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	<0.1
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.2
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	0.2
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	..
Population without Electricity (%)	..

Public Expenditure (% of GDP)



Please note: Percentages are not out of 100